

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 339
By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Archie Ray McMahan
on the celebration of her 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Archie Ray Dennis McMahan will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 27, 2005, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born the youngest of eight children to John D. and Tina Dennis, Archie Ray McMahan was named after her grandfather A.R. McMahan, who was blind and shared a special relationship with his granddaughter throughout her childhood; and

WHEREAS, she was born and raised in Bacon County in Alma, Georgia, where she attended old McMahan School and Bacon County School; she attended Leavenworth High School in Kansas her freshman year, but graduated from Pittman Center High School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She then continued her education at the University of Tennessee and Maryville College where she earned an Elementary Teacher's Certificate; and

WHEREAS, Archie Ray McMahan served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher with Sevier County Schools from 1945-1963, a manager and part-owner of a 7-10 Market for four years, and an employee of Christian Biblical Gardens from 1970-1991; in each of these positions she earned the respect of her peers, students, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, showcasing her excellent leadership capabilities, Mrs. McMahan served with distinction as the President of Sevier County Council of the Parent Teacher Association

(P.T.A.), in which position she helped to organize several P.T.A.'s while also serving on the Regional Board; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable woman was appointed by the Sevier County Court to serve on the County and Regional Library Boards and also served as Chairman and Secretary of the County Library Board; and

WHEREAS, in other leadership roles, Mrs. McMahan organized and served as President of the Pittman Center Community Club, which conducted a beautification effort under her able guidance; this effort included the school's district and the districts where the students' parents lived; and

WHEREAS, she served with expertise as the President and Secretary of the Richardson's Cove Home Demonstration Club and served as the first President and later as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Pittman Center Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her numerous leadership positions, Mrs. McMahan served as a member of the Sevier County Agricultural Committee for several years and as a member of the Sevier County Heritage Book Committee, which produced a book bearing the title *Sevier County Tennessee and Its Heritage*; she was appointed by the Sevier County Draft Board to perform the difficult task of registering men of draft age, and served faithfully on the Sevier County Republican Committee for many years; and

WHEREAS, Archie Ray McMahan is a highly respected member of the her community and has provided many important services to farmers and numerous other citizens through her work as an elected member of the Sevier County Farm Bureau Board for a tenure of thirty-six years. During this time, she served with distinction on the Board as President for two years and Secretary and Treasurer for several years; and

WHEREAS, she received the distinct honor of being appointed by Farm Bureau President, Joe Hawkins, to serve on the National Affairs Committee before eventually retiring from the Farm Bureau County Board in 2000 because of illness in her family. Due to her outstanding service with the Farm Bureau, Mrs. McMahan was presented a beautiful plaque making her an Honorary Lifetime Director; she had previously received the Distinguished Service Award at the State Convention in December of 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, she was recommended by Congressman Jimmy Quillen to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter to serve on the Tennessee State Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service as one of only five members State-wide. Her duties included attending State meetings for three days each month and attending conferences in Washington, D.C. in 1989 and 1991; and

WHEREAS, appointed by the Circuit Judge to serve on the Jury Commission of Sevier County in 1988, this hard-working woman is still serving in this important capacity today; and

WHEREAS, Archie Ray Dennis McMahan was joined in marriage with Fred O. McMahan, and the couple's blessed union lasted for an impressive sixty-five years until Mr. McMahan's passing in 1998. During their loving and happy marriage, Archie Ray and Fred had two sons, Jack D. and Tommy McMahan; their marriages added two daughters-in-law, Lori and Carolyn, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren to the family; and

WHEREAS, as Archie Ray McMahan approaches her 10th decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as her health permits; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McMahan joined Pearl Valley Baptist Church when she was ten years old and was baptized in Dunn's Creek on a cold spring morning in 1926. After her marriage to Mr. McMahan, she joined Richardson's Cove Baptist Church in May of 1933, and served faithfully as Clerk Secretary for a meritorious fifty years and as Treasurer for twenty-five years. She has also taught Sunday school classes and taught in the first Bible School and presently serves as the Church Historian; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Archie Ray McMahan on the celebration of her 90th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.